

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUDAPE 00742 171439Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2836

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HU

SUBJ: PETOFI DAY QUITE THANKS TO "POLICE VIGILANCE"

1. ANNUAL PETOFI DAY CELEBRATIONS MARCH 15 COOPTED AGAIN THIS YEAR BY "OFFICIAL CEREMONIES" LED BY COMMUNIST YOUTH LEAGUE (KISZ) AND PATRIOTIC PEOPLES FRONT. CENTRAL COMMITTEE SECRETARY MIKLOS OVARI DELIVERED KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT COMMEMORATION FOLLOWED BY WREATH-LAYING AT PETOFI STATUE.

2. ALTHOUGH SAMLL GROUPS OF HUNGARIAN YOUTHS CONGREGATED AT VARIOUS POINTS IN CITY, HEAVY POLICE PATROLS AND AGGRESSIVE SURVEILLANCE BY INTERIOR MINISTRY PLAINCLOTHESMEN PREVENTED ANTI-REGIME DEMONSTRATIONS FROM BREAKING OUT.

3. REGIME WAS PARTICULARLY DETERMINED TO PREVENT YOUTH FROM DEMONSTRATING TWO DAYS BEFORE OPENING OF HSWP 11TH CONGRESS AND ONE DAY BEFORE ARRIVAL OF BREZHNEV. TO REDUCE PROVOCATION LEVEL, AUTHORITIES WAITED UNTIL LATE IN AFTERNOON OF MARCH 15 BEFORE PUTTING UP RED BANNERS FOR 11TH HSWP CONGRESS NEXT TO HUNGARIAN TRICOLOR.
PEDERSEN

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